



The Old Ironsides Report

13 July 2003

1-37 Armor 'Bandits' remember, honor fallen comrade

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, bid good-bye to fellow "Bandit," Sgt. David B. Parson in a memorial service July 12.

Parson was a cavalry scout assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-37. He was killed July 7 while on patrol in Badhdad.

Called a "true American hero" by 1-37 commander Lt. Col. Gary Bishop, Parson was remembered by friends as an outstanding leader who was truly committed to his soldiers.

"It was for the men to his right and left that he made the ultimate sacrifice," said 1st Lt. Joseph Ruzicka, the scout platoon leader with HHC, 1-37.

"He continually demonstrated what a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army should be," said Capt. Matthew Jesop, HHC, 1-37 company commander.

Sgt. David Parson was born July 28, 1972, in California. A former Marine, he joined the Army in 1995 as a Power Generation Equipment Repairer. In 2002, he attended the Armored Cavalry Scout Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

After graduation in Feb. 2003, Parson reported to Ray Barracks, Friedberg, Germany and quickly became an integral part of the 1-37 scout platoon.

Parson was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife Mary, his children Haley, Fischer and Wilson, and his parents.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush, 1st Armored Division command sergeant major, pays his respects to Sgt. David Parsons at a memorial ceremony held by 1-37 Armor in Baghdad. Photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1 AD PAO.

1-4 ADA battalion ensures safety at airport's busiest checkpoint

BAGHDAD, Iraq—It's a sweltering day. Dust swirls in the wind. Cars and trucks line up to drive onto the grounds of Baghdad International Airport.

They're all trying to get through Checkpoint One and the soldiers of 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.



Spc. Marc Mensing, a Bradley crewmember, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, checks visitor's documents at Checkpoint One.

The "Daring Deeds" Battalion is responsible for all the checkpoints for BIAP, but Checkpoint One sees the most traffic. Hundreds of vehicles drive through the gates each day, according to 1st Lt. Jason Legro, a platoon leader with A Battery.

Vehicles carrying military personnel can enter as long as the passengers have identification, but every non-military vehicle has to be searched.

"We do thorough vehicle searches," said Legro. "One person will search and another will watch over him and pull security."

More than 20 soldiers man the checkpoint. Two Bradley Fighting Vehicles provide protection.

Each battery pulls a 24-hour shift every third day. Soldiers spend their days off resting and preparing to go back out again.

Despite the heat and the dust, soldiers are focused on this mission. They have put up camouflage net over their Bradleys to provide a little shade from the powerful sun. They are also provided with ice to keep their water cool.

"It's hot, but we're doing a good thing for BIAP," said Spc. Orbin Gonzalez, a Bradley driver with A Battery, 1-4ADA. "We're keeping the people inside safe, so they can focus on their own missions."

NEWS

Bush Says He Has Faith in CIA Director

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) - President Bush said Saturday he still has faith in his intelligence chief after CIA Director George Tenet accepted blame for Bush's erroneous claim about Iraqi weapons. Prime Minister Tony Blair's office insisted the disputed charge that Iraq sought uranium in Africa was true, saying Britain has reliable information it cannot share with Washington because it comes from foreign intelligence sources.

Bush Wraps Up Five-Day Tour of Africa

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) - Wrapping up a five-day tour of the continent, President Bush said that he would not allow terrorists to use Africa as a base "to threaten the world." He also pledged American help in fighting AIDS and ending regional conflicts, including the brutal civil war in Liberia.

Tropical Storm Moves Toward Texas Border

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Tropical Storm Claudette continued to drift northwest across the Gulf of Mexico Saturday. It could reach near-hurricane strength early next week. The storm was moving northwest at 12 mph Saturday morning and had winds of about 50 mph. The National Hurricane Center in Miami was predicting landfall late Monday or early Tuesday somewhere around Brownsville, Texas.

USS Reagan Officially Enters Service

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - With the order "Bring her to life," former first lady Nancy Reagan commissioned the Navy's newest aircraft carrier Saturday and sent lines of sailors streaming onto the USS Ronald Reagan. The carrier, nearly 1,100 feet long and standing 20 stories above the waterline, is the first to be named for a living president.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

Hurry, hurry has no blessing.

-- Swahili Proverb

We sometimes feel imprisoned by all the work we are required to do. In the press to do it all, we may lose our peace because of the hurry. We rush to eat; we rush to work; we rush to get there on time. Much of this cannot be helped. But hurry has no blessing.

We can create quick tempers and a lot of frustration if we try to hurry too much. When we allow enough time to slow things down, we give ourselves a chance to breathe more easily, and to develop along spiritual lines. Inner peace depends on our keeping a balance in all the things we do. Only then can we feel the joy that comes from having enough time to do things quietly and smoothly, and value the inner peace that comes when we do not hurry.

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from him." Psalms 62:5

SPORTS

Armstrong Holds Onto Second in France

MORZINE, France (AP) - Lance Armstrong finished 15th Saturday in the Tour de France's first mountain stage, leaving him second in the overall standings behind stage winner Richard Virenque. Armstrong, trying for a record-tying fifth straight Tour win, finished just over four minutes behind Virenque and achieved one of his main goals: leaving some rivals behind on the punishing mountain stage from Lyon to the Alpine ski resort of Morzine.

Els stretches Scottish Open lead to 5 strokes

LUSS, Scotland (AP) -- Ernie Els stretched his lead to five shots on Saturday with a third-round 67 in the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond despite stiff challenges from Darren Clarke and Peter O'Malley.

Els methodically wound his way around the 7,095-yard course to collect five birdies against a single bogey, only his second of the week.

Clarke advanced to joint second place with a 64 to finish level with Phillip Price. Els was on 198, 15 under par, with his closest pursuers on 203. O'Malley fashioned the best round of the week so far, a 9-under 62 to advance from a tie for 44th place to fourth.

In other news...

Singer Beyonce Eyes More Film Roles

BERLIN (AP) - Beyonce Knowles said Saturday that joining Nelson Mandela on an AIDS-awareness drive made her feel "blessed" to have won acclaim so young as a singer and film star - a status that could soon see her appear in a big-screen musical. Knowles took time out from promoting her first solo album in Berlin to record voiceovers for a film celebrating the former South African president's 85th birthday - and linking his long fight against apartheid with those of today's youth.

Love Parade Draws Techno Fans to Germany

BERLIN (AP) -- Hundreds of thousands of techno music fans - many in costume, others in not much at all - jammed into the German capital Saturday for the annual Love Parade.

Partygoers from across Germany and beyond danced on and alongside some 30 trucks pounding out club tracks as they converged slowly in Berlin's Tiergarten park. Police estimated the crowd at over a half-million - the minimum organizers had hoped for.

Begun in 1989 as a small procession of 150 ravers protesting for the right to party in a city still divided by the Berlin Wall, the parade mushroomed after German reunification into a Berlin institution.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 109F

Low: 85F

